

## BUTTERFLIES IN NORTHERN CYPRUS IN EARLY JUNE, 1981

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Higgins and Riley (*Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain & Europe*) do not include Cyprus in their notes on distribution, and summer visitors to Cyprus may like to know what they will commonly see.

By the first week in June the whole landscape was very dry. Butterflies were fairly scarce in open country. But in a small enclave of a few acres at Anthos, just west of the Kyrenia Mountains, in the well-watered flower gardens of a number of English residents, very large numbers were to be found.

Swallowtail: *Papilio machaon* L. To be seen everywhere, although commoner in the gardens. By this time the giant fennel has totally dried out, but the butterfly is still common in early July. Has it perhaps adopted citrus as an alternative food plant, just as has the related species *Papilio zelicaon* Lucas in California?

Large White: *Pieris brassicae* L. Common, newly hatched.

Small White: *Artogeia rapae* L. Very common, variable in size.

Bath White: *Pontia daplidice* L. Two or three single specimens: also seen in the Kyrenia Mountains at the end of June on an earlier visit in 1971.

Clouded Yellow: *Colias crocea* Geoffroy. Very common.

Cleopatra Brinstone: *Gonepteryx cleopatra* L. Both sexes common, newly hatched.

Painted Lady: *Vanessa cardui* L. Extremely common, scores could be seen at any one time, mainly on lavender.

Freyer's Grayling: *Hipparchia fatua* Freyer. One or two freshly hatched specimens on the drier edges of the settlement, among trees.

The Hermit: *Chazara briseis* L. Common, but only on the drier areas and in open country.

Meadow Brown: *Maniola jurtina* L. Very common.

Wall Brown: *Lasionmata megera* L. Common.

Large Wall Brown: *Lasionmata maera* L. Common.

Lattice Brown: *Kirinia roxelana* Cramer. Common in shady bushes around a swimming pool.

Small Copper: *Lycaena phlaeas* L. One or two.

Long-tailed Blue: *Lampides boeticus* L. Common.

Mazarine Blue: *Cyaniris semiargus* Rottemburg. Common.

Common Blue: *Polyommatus icarus* Rottemburg. Very common.

Mallow Skipper: *Carcharodus alceae* Esper. Common on lavender.

Lulworth Skipper: *Thymelicus acteon* Rottemburg. Very common.

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Lulworth Skipper: *Thymelicus acteon* Rottenburg. Very common.

### POSTSCRIPT

The identifications of *Maniola jurtina*, *Hipparchia fatua* and *Cyaniris semiargus* need further checking. A correction note will be published later if this is found to be necessary.

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HYLES LINEATA F. SSP. LIVORNICA ESP.: STRIPED HAWK-MOTH IN THE NEW FOREST. — A fresh specimen of this moth was taken in my M.V. trap at Brockenhurst on April 3rd. Immediately prior to this date a severe south westerly gale had been in force for two days. It seems possible therefore that in view of the early date of its capture the moth may have originated from Spain or North Africa. — A. D. A. RUSSWURM, Coridon, Ober Road, Brockenhurst, Hants. SO4 7ST.

THE PAINTED LADY: CYNTHIA CARDUI L. IN MARCH 1985. — On 14th March 1985, a worn *C. cardui* was feeding on flowers of the winter heather (*Erica carnea*) in my garden. — H. G. PHELPS, 'Green Oak', Potters Hill, Crockerton, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 8AD.

THERA BRITANNICA TURNER: SPUCE CARPET IN KENT. — In 1984, I saw this species for the first time at East Malling when a single specimen came to m.v.l. on 17th September, to be followed by two more on 15th October. Chalmers-Hunt (*The Butterflies and Moths of Kent*, Vol. 3) gives only two other records for the Weald Medway division of the county. There are several rows of *Cupressus* trees near the site of capture, planted as windbreaks or for screening, and these may have induced the moths to colonise the area. — D. A. CHAMBERS, 15 Briar Close, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent.

EUPITHECIA — DELAYED EMERGENCE. — A number of species of Lepidoptera sometimes delay emergence from pupae until the second (or more) year after pupation (eg. genus *Cucullia*), but I have never before observed this in the genus *Eupithecia*, although I have bred many Pug species. However, on 5th June 1983 I took a worn *Eupithecia insigniata* Hb. (Pinion-spotted Pug) which had obviously laid most of its ova, but produced about half a dozen more before it died. From these, four pupae resulted, two emerging in 1984 on 8th. and 10th. March respectively. Later examination of the two remaining pupae showed one dried up but the other apparently healthy. This was kept outside for the winter 1984/5, brought in to room temperature at the beginning of March 1985 and emerged on 13th March. — Col. D. H. STERLING, "Tangmere", 2 Hampton Lane, Winchester, Hants. SO22 5LF.